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SECTION ONE OF TWO

DELIVER TO GEN. HAIG FOR HENRY A. KISSINGER AT AMBASSADOR
WATSON'S RESIDENCE.

OCTOBER 10, 1972

OSD & NSA REVIEW (s) completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

HENRY A. KISSINGER

SUBJECT:

SITUATION IN VIETNAM

THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF PLANNED LIMITED OBJECTIVE OPERATIONS BY
THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE MARINES WAS COMPLETED YESTERDAY AND THEY
HAVE RETURNED TO POSITIONS ALONG PHASE LINE GOLD.

THE AIRBORNE DIVISION'S PROGRESS TOWARD THE WEST CONTINUES TO BE
HAMPERED BY INCREASED ENEMY MORTAR ATTACKS.

ARVN 3RD DIVISION ELEMENTS IN THE QUE SON VALLEY ARE MEETING LIGHT
RESISTANCE IN THEIR OPERATION NEAR FIRE SUPPORT BASE ROSS.

AT BA TO, ARVN FORCES HAVE OCCUPIED HIGH GROUND NEAR THE TOWN AND
THEY ARE CONTINUING TO EXPAND THEIR AREA OF CONTROL.

FOR 78 ENEMY KILLED, WHILE ARVN LOST THREE KILLED AND 30 WOUNDED.
FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE AUGUST 22, KONTUM AIRFIELD WAS HIT BY A
ROCKET ATTACK. THE ATTACK WAS LIGHT AND NO DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES
WERE REPORTED.

ENEMY ACTIVITY IN MILITARY REGION 3 REMAINED AT AN INCREASED LEVEL,
PARTICULARLY IN SOUTHERN BINH DUONG PROVINCE WHERE THE ENEMY CON-
TROLS SEVERAL HAMLETS AND VILLAGES. ENEMY ACTIVITY HAS ALSO IN-
CREASED IN TAY NINH PROVINCE, WHERE ROUTE 22 WAS CLOSED BY THE
COMMUNISTS YESTERDAY.

THE SITUATION IN MILITARY REGION 4 REMAINS ABOUT THE SAME. HOWEVER,
THE FANK SITUATION IN THE SEVEN MOUNTAINS AREA IS DETERIORATING.

TODAY, A TOTAL OF 453 U.S. TACTICAL AIR SORTIES WERE FLOWN, 284
OF WHICH HIT TARGETS IN NORTH VIETNAM. SIX B-52 SORTIES WERE ALSO
FLOWN OVER NORTH VIETNAM. FOURTEEN B-52 SORTIES WERE FLOWN OVER
CAMBODIA AND NINE OVER LAOS.

MILITARY REGION 1

THE MARINES HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR POSITIONS ALONG PHASE LINE GOLD
FOLLOWING THEIR BRIEF SPOILING OPERATION NORTHWARD ALONG ROUTE 560.

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- THE AIRBORNE DIVISION'S PROGRESS WESTWARD FROM QUANG TRI CITY CONTINUES TO BE HAMPERED AS ENEMY MORTAR FIRE HAS INCREASED AGAINST FORWARD ELEMENTS.
- ACTIVITY IN THE ARVN 1ST DIVISION'S AREA OF OPERATIONS WAS AT A LOW LEVEL YESTERDAY.
- SOUTHEAST OF HUE, AN ENEMY SAPPER UNIT WAS ENGAGED WITH GOOD RESULTS.
- THE ARVN 3RD DIVISION ELEMENTS OPERATING IN THE QUE SON VALLEY CONTINUE THEIR SWEEP SOUTHWEST OF FIRE SUPPORT BASE ROSS AGAINST LIGHT RESISTANCE.
- THE ARVN 2ND DIVISION IN QUANG NGAI CONTINUED CLEARING OPERATIONS ALONG ROUTE 1 AGAINST MODERATE ENEMY RESISTANCE. GVN AGENTS HAVE REPORTED THE PRESENCE OF NVA 2ND DIVISION HEADQUARTERS ELEMENTS NEAR THE JUNCTION OF ROUTE 515 AND A RECENTLY COMPLETED ENEMY ROAD WHICH RUNS WEST ALONG THE SONG VE RIVER AND SONG NE RIVER INTO BASE AREA 128. THIS FURTHER INDICATES THE ENEMY'S DETERMINATION TO GATHER AS MUCH LOWLAND RICE AS POSSIBLE.

MILITARY REGION 2

FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE AUGUST 22, KONTUM AIRFIELD WAS HIT BY ROCKETS. HOWEVER, LITTLE DAMAGE WAS DONE.

- NO SIGNIFICANT ACTION WAS REPORTED ELSEWHERE IN THE REGION.

MILITARY REGION 3

THE ENEMY CONTINUES TO CONTROL SEVERAL HAMLETS AND VILLAGES IN SOUTHERN BINH DUONG PROVINCE.

- ARVN ELEMENTS REMAINED IN LIGHT CONTACT IN SOUTHERN BINH DUONG YESTERDAY AND THIS MORNING AS ENEMY FORCES EMPLOY STANDOFF ATTACKS IN REACTION TO ARVN CLEARING OPERATIONS.**
- TO THE WEST, ENEMY ACTIVITY INCREASED IN SOUTHERN TAY NINH PROVINCE.**
- THE ENEMY CLOSED ROUTE 22 TEN KILOMETERS SOUTH OF TAY NINH CITY YESTERDAY AFTER A FIVE-HOUR CONTACT BETWEEN A RURAL FORCE BATTALION AND A LOCAL FORCE VIET CONG UNIT. CONTACT HAS BEEN REPORTED IN THAT AREA AGAIN TODAY.**

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- THIS ACTIVITY, ALONG WITH THAT IN BINH DUONG, IS IN CONSONANCE WITH PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ENEMY PLANS TO CUT LINES OF COMMUNICATION AND TO ATTACK IN THE AREA GENERALLY NORTH OF SAIGON IN ORDER TO PRESENT A PSYCHOLOGICAL THREAT TO THE CAPITAL.
 - GENERAL MINH, MILITARY REGION 3 COMMANDER, IS REPOSITIONING HIS FORCES TO BLOCK ENEMY MOVEMENT TO THE SOUTH. THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF THE ARVN 25TH DIVISION'S AREA OF OPERATION HAS BEEN EXPANDED TO INCLUDE THE AREA NORTH OF PHU CUONG AND EAST OF THE SAIGON RIVER.

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